



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
DAVID L. MAIER
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

JAMES R. FELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

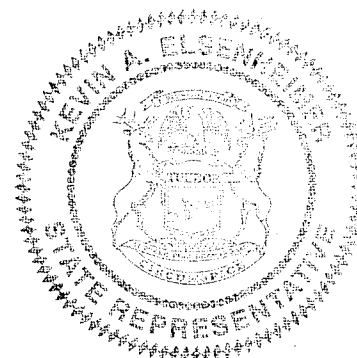
JAMES L. STOLZ
SERVICE OFFICER MANAGER

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

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1849 Prospect Avenue • Room 200 • Cleveland, OH 44115



February 19, 2005

The Honorable Kevin Elsenheimer
S1389 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Kevin:

I wish to commend you on your sponsorship of a bill that would authorize county governments in Michigan to fund the annual purchase of American flags to appropriately mark veteran graves in non-public cemeteries. For comparison purposes, Section 5901.34 of the Ohio Revised Code charges Ohio county governments with this responsibility for both public and private cemeteries. Attached is a copy of this law.

The Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission administers this program in the Greater Cleveland area to ensure that each of its 100,000+ veteran graves is properly decorated with a flag every Memorial Day. For 2005, the purchase of 714 gross of American flags cost the County about \$41,000, which factors out to slightly over \$0.40 per flag. Given the sacrifices Michigan veterans have made in our many wars, the expenditure of a mere \$0.40 once a year to commemorate their memory is not too much to expect.

Section 307.66 of the Ohio Revised Code charges county governments with funding veteran organizations up to \$500 for expenses incurred in the annual coordination of Memorial Day ceremonies. The CCVSC also manages this activity which costs Cuyahoga County approximately \$16,000 each year. I have enclosed a copy of this law for your review.

I wish to thank both you and Representative Tim Moore for advocating this flag legislation for Michigan veterans. If I can supply any additional information, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

"Uncle Dan"

President

CC: Board of Commissioners, Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission
CCVSC Executive Director
File

DTW/jrf

§ 5901.34 Permanent and temporary markers for graves of veterans.

The board of county commissioners shall, upon the petition of any five veterans of any township or municipal corporation in its county, procure for and furnish to the petitioners a suitable and durable marker for the grave of each veteran buried in the limits of the township or municipal corporation. The name of the veteran and the company, regiment, or other command in which he served may be inscribed upon the marker. The marker shall be placed on the grave by the petitioners for the purpose of permanently marking and designating the grave for memorial purposes. The board may also provide a temporary memorial day marker for each veteran's grave within the limits of the county, upon the petition of any memorial day association or veterans organization having charge of memorial day ceremonies conducted within the cemetery where veterans are buried. The board shall provide for the payment of the necessary expense of placing and setting such permanent and temporary markers.

The petitioners shall state in their petition the names of veterans buried and the number of such graves in their township or municipal corporation at the time of petitioning, and shall describe the form and character of the markers which they desire to have placed at such graves.

HISTORY: RS §§ 3107-11c, 3107-11d; 94 v 228; 97 v 252, §§ 1, 2; GC §§ 2958, 2959; 101 v 379; 120 v 234; Bureau of Code Revision, 10-1-53; 142 v H 626 (Eff 9-14-88); 145 v H 448. Eff 7-22-94.

§ 307.66 Memorial day appropriations.

The board of county commissioners, annually, shall appropriate, and advance upon application made no more than one hundred twenty days prior to memorial day, to each garrison or naval branch of the Army and Navy Union, U.S.A. and to each chartered post, garrison, or naval branch of any organization of veterans recognized and chartered by the congress, upon request of their officials, in the county, a sum of money not to exceed five hundred dollars to aid in defraying the expenses of memorial day.

Each such organization applying for an advance of funds shall submit with its application a statement of expenses incurred up to the time the application for an advance is submitted. Each such organization receiving money from this appropriation shall file a sworn statement accounting for the complete expenditures of the funds with the board within sixty days after the memorial day for which the funds were provided. Any unexpended funds shall be returned to the board of county commissioners within this period. Any organization failing to file a sworn statement within the prescribed time accounting for the complete expenditure of the funds shall not be eligible to receive an appropriation the following year. Two or more separate veterans' organizations, or two or more posts, garrisons, or naval branches of one or more veterans' organizations, or both, may pool their entitlements to funds and submit a joint or consolidated statement of expenses. Allowable items shall include expenses for arrangement of, support of, or participation in, local or countywide observances as may be desirable in the community; expenses for mapping, marking, and decorating graves of veterans; and other items incidental to these expenses.

The board of township trustees may, on or before the fifteenth day of May in each year, appropriate a sum to be determined by the board for each post within the township, from the general expense fund of the township, for the purpose of properly observing memorial day within the township, and if any post is located within the township, the appropriation shall be made to that post. Any municipal corporation located within a township may cooperate with the township, or with the county, in observing memorial day, and the legislative authority of the municipal corporation may make the necessary appropriation for the observance.

If any posts have become extinct or unable to attend to memorial day services, the appropriation by the board of county commissioners or the board of township trustees shall be made to a post or unit of the sons of union veterans of the civil war, woman's relief corps, or daughters of veterans, or to any civic or patriotic organization willing and able to undertake and perform the work of commemoration and observance of memorial day. If the appropriation by the board of county commissioners is made to a civic organization, it shall not exceed one hundred dollars.

HISTORY: GC § 2503; 99 v 320; 101 v 106; 106 v 105; 107 v 617; 108 v PtI, 623; 113 v 496; 114 v 85; 118 v 473; 124 v 35; Bureau of Code Revision, 10-1-53; 127 v 709 (Eff 9-14-57); 134 v S 378 (Eff 12-21-71); 137 v H 497 (Eff 2-28-79); 140 v S 82 (Eff 10-6-83); 144 v H 158 (Eff 10-10-91); 149 v H 123. Eff 5-30-2002.